

**INQUIRY INTO PROTECTION OF PUBLIC SECTOR
WHISTLEBLOWER EMPLOYEES**

Organisation:

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Date received: 14/05/2009

ICACCommittee - Supplementary submission.

From: "cynthia kardell"
To: <icac@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 14/05/2009 4:59 PM
Subject: Supplementary submission.

Mr Frank Terenzini, MP
Chair,
Committee on the ICAC.,
NSW Parliament.

Dear Sir,

Submission dated 6 May 2009:
regarding the proposals set out in the Discussion Paper: Report No. 5/54 published March 2009.

You would be aware I am a contact person for Whistleblowers Australia Inc. I receive calls for information and assistance by phone, email and ordinary post and have done so, since about mid 1995.

I felt motivated to write again, mostly about the Committee's decision not to recommend that the Act be extended to allow for a 'person' to make public interest disclosures, because of the steady stream of telephone calls I have since had from persons, all of whom want to make disclosures about issues affecting the public's interests. None of them were silly or lacking in substance.

For example: one call from a private sector employee concerning allegations about physical & sexual abuse and the misappropriation of government funds by a private provider of longterm residential & disability care. Another from a TAFE student about fraudulent claims being made on government funds by TAFE teachers. One from a private sector employee about the wrong use of government subsidies by a very large public charity. Another private sector employee about the unsafe and unhygienic practices of a major grocery & fresh fruit chain. And another from a parent, a member of the relevant P&C committee, about the management and funding arrangements applying at a public school.

Based on my experience of nearly fifteen years, none of them are likely to escape unscathed. The three employees risk losing their jobs and having to go on the dole. The student risks being pushed off the course and not being able to qualify. The parent's child is at risk of being singled out for partial and unfair treatment and accordingly, I urge the Committee to take another look at this issue, because your experience, personally and politically cannot be that much different to mine.

Yours faithfully,

Cynthia Kardell.